

FENSE & DIPLOMACY

Nations. Gingrich reiterated his opposition to U.S. troops being put under U.N. command.

— Reuter

Speaker Supports Taiwan

■ Declaring the people of Taiwan “have the right of self-determination,” House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) said yesterday that Taiwan should be readmitted to the United Nations despite China’s opposition.

“Frankly, Taiwan does deserve to be treated with respect,” Gingrich told reporters after meeting with a delegation from Taiwan’s ruling Kuomintang Party. “It has certainly earned it.”

Taiwan is the seat of the nationalist government that fled the communist takeover of mainland China in 1949. It was expelled from the United Nations when China was admitted in 1971.

Beijing regards the island as a renegade province and insists relations between Taiwan and other countries, including the United States, remain unofficial.

Deferring to Beijing’s wishes, Washington has maintained only low-level political relations with Taiwan, despite a burgeoning trade relationship.

— Associated Press

Post 2/4/95

CIA Is Said to Aid Iraq Resupply

■ A former staff member of the National Security Council says the CIA “authorized, approved and assisted” a Chilean industrialist in manufacture and sale of cluster bombs to Iraq in the 1980s.

A court affidavit by Howard Teicher, who worked as an NSC staff member in the Reagan administration between 1982 and 1987, appears to be the first direct evidence of U.S. government involvement in resupply of Iraq during its debilitating war with Iran. The United States officially remained neutral in the conflict, although Washington provided Iraq

with intelligence data about Iran obtained from U.S. spy satellites.

In 1993, arms maker Carlos Cardoen, Los Angeles-based Teledyne Inc. and two of its employees were charged with scheming to skirt federal export laws by shipping 130 tons of zirconium to Chile, where the metal was integrated into 25,000 cluster bombs for sale to Iraq.

For two years, defense lawyers have argued the sales were made with U.S. government knowledge and approval.

Teicher’s statement, obtained this week by lawyers for ope employee, contradicts the prosecution’s insistence that there was no government involvement. A CIA spokesman declined comment.

Teicher, who was responsible for the Middle East and politico-military affairs, says he had “regular contact” with late CIA Director William J. Casey and his then-deputy, Robert M. Gates.

He said Casey “personally spearheaded the effort to ensure that Iraq had sufficient military weapons, ammunition and vehicles.”

In 1982, Teicher said, Casey and Gates, who later became CIA director, “noted the need for Iraq to have certain weapons such as cluster bombs.”

— Knight-Ridder

Diplomat Exam Canceled

■ The State Department said it is canceling the entrance exam for would-be diplomats this year because of cutbacks in overseas staffing.

The department said the next exam would not be held until the fall of 1996.

“The decision not to offer the exam in 1995 grew out of the diminished need for new foreign service officers,” the department said.

— Reuter